

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications. In this listing, claim 20 has been amended.

Listings of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the method comprising:

receiving a user input; and  
providing help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

2. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide, wherein receiving the user input comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

5. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises displaying a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

6. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

7. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein providing help information comprises playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points, the method further comprising:

tracking a current operating point in the plurality of operating points, wherein

the help information provided is based on the current operating point.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

storing the help information in a memory; and retrieving the help information from the memory in response to receiving the user input.

14. (Previously presented) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

means for receiving a user input;

means for providing help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

15. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 further comprising:

means for displaying a help icon using the electronic television program guide wherein receiving the user input comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for displaying the help information in response to the user input, wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control generates the user input.

18. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for displaying a text message that explains to

the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

19. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

20. (Currently amended) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for providing help information comprises means for playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 wherein the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points, the system further comprising:  
means for tracking a current operating point in the plurality of operating points, wherein the help information provided is based on the current operating point.

23-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 14 further comprising:

means for storing the help information; and  
means for retrieving the help information from  
the means for storing in response to receiving the user input.

27. (Previously presented) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

a video display generator;  
a remote controller;  
a microcontroller; and  
an electronic television program guide executed by the microcontroller and programmed to (1) receive a user input and (2) provide help information that explains to the user how the electronic television program guide operates to the video display generator for display in response to receiving the user input, wherein the help information provided depends on the state of the guide at which the user enters the input.

28. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the electronic television program guide is further programmed to:

provide a help icon to the video display generator for display; and

provide the user with an opportunity to select the help icon using the remote controller.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the remote controller comprises a help key; and  
the electronic television program guide is further configured to provide the help information to the video display generator in response to the user depressing the help key on the remote controller.

31. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the help information comprises a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is further programmed to provide the text message to the video display generator for display.

32. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the help information comprises an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is further configured to provide the instructional video to the video display generator for display.

33. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the system further comprises a television;

the help information comprises an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates; and

the electronic television program guide is configured to provide the audio program to the video display generator for playback by the television.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein:

the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points in which the user operates;

the electronic television program guide is further configured to track a current operating point in the plurality of operating points and provide the help information to the video display generator based on the current operating point at the time which the user enters the user input.

36-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The system defined in claim 27 wherein the electronic television program guide is further programmed to:

store the help information in a memory; and  
retrieve the help information from the memory in response to receiving the user input.

40. (Previously presented) Machine-readable media for use with an electronic television program guide, the machine-readable media comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

receiving a user input; and  
providing help information that explains to the  
user how the electronic television program guide operates in  
response to receiving the user input, wherein the help  
information provided depends on the state of the guide at which  
the user enters the input.

41. (Previously presented) The machine-readable  
media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic  
recorded thereon for displaying a help icon using the electronic  
television program guide wherein receiving the user input  
comprises receiving a user selection of the help icon.

42. (Previously presented) The machine-readable  
media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for  
providing help information comprises program logic for  
displaying the help information in response to the user input,  
wherein a user depressing a help key on a remote control  
generates the user input.

43. (Previously presented) The machine-readable  
media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for  
providing help information comprises program logic for

displaying a text message that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

44. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for displaying an instructional video that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

45. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 wherein the program logic for providing help information comprises program logic for playing an instructional audio program that explains to the user how a portion of the electronic television program guide operates.

46. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

tracking a current operating point in a plurality of operating points; and

providing help information based on the current operating point.

47. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media defined in claim 40 further comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

storing the help information in a memory; and  
retrieving the help information from the memory  
in response to receiving the user input.

48. (Previously presented) A method for providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the method comprising:

querying the user to identify a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and

displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.

49. (Previously presented) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

means for querying the user to identify a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and

means for displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.

50. (Previously presented) An electronic television program guide system that provides help information for explaining to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates, the system comprising:

a video display generator;

a remote controller;

a microcontroller; and

an electronic television program guide executed by the microcontroller and programmed to (1) query the user to identify with a remote controller a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and (2) provide help information for the portion of the electronic program guide identified by the user to the video display generator for display.

51. (Previously presented) Machine-readable media

for use with an electronic television program guide, the machine-readable media comprising program logic recorded thereon for:

querying the user to identify a portion of the electronic television program guide for which the user desires help information; and

displaying help information for the portion of the electronic television program guide identified by the user.